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NBC Network

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SUBJECT Protecting Identities of American Agents

STEVE PORTER: President Reagan calls CIA agents the cutting edge of freedom. He made his remark at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia as he signed into law today the bill protecting the identities of American undercover agents.

NBC's Karen Gray reports.

KAREN GRAY: The Intelligence Identities Protection Act makes it illegal for anyone to blow the cover of certain undercover officers, agents, informants, and sources. The maximum penalty for disclosing the identity of a secret agent is ten years in prison and/or a \$50,000 fine. The law also applies to Americans living overseas, would allow a covert agent to disclose his or her own identity without being penalized, and requires the President to issue an annual report to congressional intelligence committees on the effectiveness of measures being taken to protect undercover agents.

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